

Serial No.: 10/712,729  
Reply to Office action of May 9, 2006

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*Monica Spentz*  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 10/712,729  
Applicant : David Charles Pender et al.  
Filed : November 12, 2003  
Title : SYSTEM AND SUPPORT ROD ASSEMBLY FOR SINTERING  
FIBER OPTIC SLEEVE TUBES  
Art Unit : 1731  
Confirmation No. : 9280  
Examiner : Queenie S. Dehghan  
Docket No. : 128518-1  
Customer No. : 006147

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**  
(In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.114)

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 9, 2006, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendment to the specification** begins on page 2 of this reply.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 3 of this reply.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this reply.

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